

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7678

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 14770

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.)

REF: (A) STATE 16158; (B) ROME 14619

1. FOREIGN MINISTRY HAS INVITED OUR ATTENTION TO FACT THAT IN BRIEF 24 HOUR VISIT TO ROME NOVEMBER 4-5, SECRETARY'S SCHEDULE CALLS FOR FOUR 45 TO 50 MINUTE TRIPS BY LIMOUSINE. THESE ARE FROM AIRPORT TO HOTEL, HOTEL TO WFC SITE, WFC SITE TO FOREIGN MINISTER'S LUNCH (NOW CONFIRMED) AND FROM HOTEL TO AIRPORT. FOREIGN MINISTRY SUGGESTS THAT HELICOPTERS BE USED FOR THESE FOUR TRIPS, AND GOI IS PREPARED TO MAKE HELICPTERS AVAILABLE.

2. MINISTRY IS INTERESTED IN NOT ONLY FACILITATING SECRETARY'S TRAVEL BUT IS ALSO CONCERNED WITH SECURITY AND POSSIBILITY THAT EXTRA-PARLIAMENTARY LEFT-WING EXTREMISTS COULD SO TIE UP TRAFFIC THAT THE SECRETARY COULD POSSIBLY BE IMMOBLIZED OR DELAYED SUFFICIENTLY TO DISRUPT THE SCHEDULE.

3. COMMUNIST PARTY HAS SCHEDULED RALLY FOR NOVEMBER 5 IN AREA REMOTE FROM SECRETARY'S ROUTES AND REMOTE FROM SCHEDULED ACTIVITIES OF WFC. EXTREME LEFT-WING GROUPS, HOWEVER, HAVE APPLIED FOR PERMISSION TO HOLD DEMONSTRATION IN AREA NEAR WFC SITE. INTENT TO DISRUPT IS OBVIOUS.GOI WILL REFUSE PERMISSION TO DEMONSTRATE IN AREA REQUESTED NEAR WFC SITE. NEVERTHELESS CAPABILITY OF RADICAL LEFT TO TIE-UP ROMAN TRAFFIC BY QUICK STRIKES ALONG KEY ROUTES IS A POTENTIAL PROBLEM.

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4. EMBASSY BELIEVES USE OF HELICOPTERS IS VERY PRACTICAL

SOLUTION WHICH WOULD CONTRIBUTE SIGNIFICANTLY TO SECURITY AND RESULT ALSO IN A SUBSTANTIAL SAVING OF SECRETARY'S TIME. ON ARRIVAL NOVEMBER 4 HELICOPTERS WOULD LAND IN VILLA BORGHESE PARK (FIVE MINUTES FROM HOTEL) AFTER DARK, BUT IN AN AREA WITH ADEQUATE LIGHTS PROVIDED BY ITALIAN MILITARY FOR SAFE NIGHT OPERATIONS. WE NOTE THAT USE OF HELICOPTERS FROM CIAMPINO TO DOWNTOWN ROME WOULD SAVE THE EXTRA HALF HOUR REQUESTED IN REFTEL A PARA. 1.A. INCREASED SECURITY AND EFFICIENCY RESULTING FROM USE OF HELICOPTERS IN OUR VIEW FAR OUTWEIGHT MINOR NEGATIVE FACTOR WHICH IS POSSIBILITY OF SNIDE COMMENTS FROM THE LEFT CONCERNING APPARENT SUBSTANTIAL DEGREE OF SECURITY PRECAUTIONS FOR THE VISIT. PLEASE ADVISE.

5. IN VIEW OF FOREGOING, ESPECIALLY PARA. 3, WE CONSIDER IT IMPERATIVE THAT THE SECRET SERVICE ADVANCE TEAM ARRIVE ROME NOT LATER THAN MONDAY, OCTOBER 28.

6. PERTINENT ALSO TO THE TIME AVAILABLE BEFORE THE PRESIDENT'S DINNER NOVEMBER 4 IS INFORMATION JUST RECEIVED THAT THE QUIRINALE PALACE HAS HAD SECOND THOUGHTS ABOUT BLACK TIE. WE ARE NOW INFORMED THAT QUIRINALE PLACE DOES NOT HAVE PREFERENCE AND THAT ONLY CONSIDERATION IS THE PREFERENCE OF SECRETARY AND MRS. KISSINGER. QUIRINALE PALACE ANTICIPATES LADIES WILL WEAR LONG DRESSES AND MEN WILL WEAR DARK SUITS OR BLACK TIE AS SECRETARY PREFERS. IT IS MOST URGENT, HOWEVER, FOR US TO HAVE INSTRUCTIONS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE IN ORDER TO PERMIT QUIRINALE PALACE TO ISSUE INVITATIONS INDICATING APPROPRIATE DRESS. ADVISE ASAP.
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